

Fort McHenry Composite Squadron Kicks-Off Adopt-A-Highway Community Service Project

25 April 2005

Capt Douglas Barth, CAP
Commander, Fort McHenry Composite Squadron

Nine members of the Fort McHenry Composite Squadron in the Maryland Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), have launched the Squadron's Adopt-A-Highway community service project.

Sponsored by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA), the Adopt-A-Highway program allows volunteer groups to pick-up litter along non-interstate roadways as a community service. Community based "Stop Waste and Trash" (SWAT) teams are key to the success of the Program.

Squadron members participating today were Cadet Basic Ceviann Quinonez, Cadet Basic Zack McManus, Cadet Basic Andy O'Connor, Cadet Airman 1st Class Stacey McManus, Cadet Airman 1st Class Aaron Goerlich, 1st Lt. John Meagher, 1st Lt. Christine Zisa, Capt. Steven Barth, and Capt. Douglas Barth.



Kicking off the Adopt-A-Highway Project for the Fort McHenry Squadron in Catonsville, Md. Are, from left, 1st Lt. Christine Zisa, Cadet Airman 1st Class Stacey McManus, Cadet Basic Andy O'Connor, 1st Lt. John Meagher, Cadet Basic Ceviann Quinonez, Cadet Airman 1st Class Aaron Goerlich, Cadet Basic Zach McManus, and Capt. Steven Barth. Photo by Capt Doug Barth, CAP.

Fort McHenry Squadron is responsible for a one-mile segment of Frederick Avenue from the Baltimore Beltway east to the Baltimore County-Baltimore City line.

"Our squadron is based in Catonsville, Md., so we wanted to work a segment of highway in our community. Frederick Avenue is Catonsville's Main Street," said Capt. Doug Barth, squadron commander. "Our stretch of Frederick Avenue is mostly residential, churches, and small community businesses. We had several residents come by while we were working to find out who we were and to say 'Thanks.' We also met a couple of adults who are former CAP cadets who were glad to see us out in the community, and said that they just might stop by a meeting to see what CAP is doing today."

Before participating in the project, each member had to complete a Safety training class as well as a safety briefing on the day of the event. "We are dealing with potentially hazardous situation due to traffic and we are very focused on the safety aspects of this project," said 1st Lt. Christine Zisa. All participants are required to wear the blaze orange safety vest and cap while working the project.

"Volunteer service is a core value of the Civil Air Patrol and participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program is another example of how we in CAP can be a part of the community we serve," said Capt Steven Barth. "Both our Cadets and adult members are working this activity."

"Fort McHenry Squadron is the first unit in the Maryland Wing to participate in this program," said 1st Lt. Steven Solomon, the Maryland Wing public affairs officer. "As a wing we are excited about this program and look to see our participation grow through out the state."

The Squadron will do the highway clean up at least four times this year. For information on the Adopt-A-Highway Program in Maryland visit <http://www.sha.state.md.us/SHAServices/mapsBrochures/oc/adopt.asp>.

CAP, the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization with more than 60,000 members nationwide. It performs 95 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 25,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. Cadets in CAP participate in a structured program through group and individual activities that include aerospace education, physical training, leadership, and moral and ethical values. There are approximately 1,300 members of CAP in Maryland. For more information visit <http://mdcap.org/>. For information about the Fort McHenry Squadron visit: <http://fortmchenry.mdwg.cap.gov>.